"She was out, and I was ushered in by one of the children who was, in children's parlance, dreesed up; that is, she had on her mother's gown and hat and was playing with another little girl. I seated myself in an easy chair and pretended to read. "The children were playing and, of course, I listened. One does not have ethical scruples in regard to children's tête-âtètes. One of the children was the agent and the other was the flat hunter.

and the other was the flat hunter.

"Apparently they were experienced in the business, for the questions they asked and answered showed an intimate knowledge of flat life. Finally, one, the agent, said to

"Yes, madam, your references seem to be satisfactory, and you say you will take a lease for two years, but, first of all, I must

ask if you have any parents?'
"Two,' murmured the other. 'I've got

a papa and a mamma.

"That settles it,' said the agent in masquerade, 'we can't have parents. I don't object to children or dogs, but no parents.'

"But what can I do with 'em?' asked

NEW YORK THRATRE PRICES.

MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE

COST OF SEATS.

Relations of the Managers and the Hotel

Speculators-The Box Office Rates

and What the Public Has to Pay-No

Change for the Better Now in Sight.

New York theatre prices are not likely to get any higher, in spite of the occasional

threats of managers to raise them to \$2.50

for the best seats in the high priced theatres.

There are some managers who remember

the difficulty they had in making the in-

crease to \$2 from \$1.50, and they are uncer-

It is significant that two theatres recently

opened in New York have returned to the

old rate of \$1.50 for an orchestra seat. Less

than a decade ago that rate prevailed in all

The increase to \$2 meant for the general

public \$2.50. Most managers—some people say all managers-when a play is.a

success, put all the desirable seats in the

hands of hotel speculators. The latter

make \$2.50 the price for the public, un-

selling tickets for first nights at \$3. Just

at this season the audiences at the theatre

New York is full of strangers returning

homeward from Eastern resorts, or here

on business, and as their evenings are unoccupied they naturally turn to the theatres.

So the hotel speculators are just now sell-

ing their theatre tickets to the transient

public that the managers talk so much

about when they explain why they give the hotel speculators so many seats.

The success of a new theatre opened this

year has set managers pondering on the

question of \$1.50 as the standard price for seats. This theatre has presented the same play for more than six months and is uniformly crowded. The price of the best seat in the theatre is \$1.50. Of course, the play was a powerful attraction. One often hears the theatregoer com-

"Why, I saw a little farce the other night," one will say, "with only one good actor

one will say, "with only one good accorin it, and a company supporting him that
certainly could have cost very little. Yet
I had to pay the same price for a seat
that is charged in theatres that give elaborate productions. That doesn't seem to
me a fair game, even though the house was
crowded."

One theatrical manager answered this story with an argument from commercial

life.
"I have a friend," he said, "who makes an ink bottle that costs him 24 cents; but

he sells it for \$1.25, because most persons consider it the most convenient ink bottle

agers said to a SUN reporter, "that there are

y the theatres have their headquarters in the hotels and restaurants.

"They receive from every theatre which

is offering a successful play all the best seats—practically back to M. It is said

that only seventy of these seats are given to the hotel speculators. That may be the number when the play is a failure or only

a moderate success.

"When it is a notable success the entire

theatre is handed over to these hotel specu-lators, who get whatever they want.
"You ask what advantage this is to the

"You ask what advantage this is to the theatre managers. It merely increases their receipts about 8 per cent.

"For every ticket that costs at the box office \$2\$ these favored speculators pay \$2.25. The theatre guarantees to take back at this price all tickets not sold by 8 o'clock on the night of the performance. If you doubt this, go to a theatre between \$40 and \$30, and see how much more likely you are to get good seats than if you went at 2 in the afternoon.

at 2 in the afternoon.

All these hysterical warnings against

"All these hysterical warnings against speculators are meant to protect, not the public nor the patrons of the theatres, but the speculators who are willing to pay this premium on the tickets.

"I don't see how the evil is to be abated so long as the public is willing to pay the extra hotel price without a protest. These agrencies exist in all countries and the state."

so long as the public is willing to pay the extra hotel price without a protest. These agencies exist in all countries and the rich are willing to pay the additional cost rather than take the trouble of going to the theatre.

"Usually it is only the rich that are affected, although when Henry Irving or

Sarah Berni ardt plays a successful engage-ment here the managers turn over the galleries as well as the orchestra seats to the speculators, always on the pretext that it is to benefit the strangers in town."

THE THERMOMETER SCALE. How It Happened to Be Divided in an

Apparently Senseless Way

From the American Inventor. Why should the freezing point be marked

32 degrees and the boiling point 212 degrees

on the Fahrenheit thermometer scale? Most

to kinds of speculators

officially, but none the less positively. Recently the speculators have been

tain as to the wisdom of that change.

of the best New York theatres.

are greater than at any other.

plain of high prices.

in the world.

A PROBLEM OF NEW YORK LIFE IN THE FALL.

ON SOUBRETTE ROW.

ried looks, as if no one loved them or war are looking for apartments above 125th

classes, the uptown flat hunters and the they want to go and are not addicted to

street

hunters. It is easy to dis- extremes when it comes to choosing a

But between these two classes is an

vearly home. This class is composed of

brides and bridegrooms, of suburbanites

who are tired of chasing incoming and

outgoing trains, of the flotsam and jetsam

of metropolitan life who are seeking the

unattainable, the perfectly appointed home

-most of them demanding it on an im-

The matter of leases is an important one

perfectly appointed salary.

indeterminate class who don't know where

ever going to. Stern determination is

The flat hunters are divided into two

printed on their faces, too.

tinguish them.

Said a visiting Englishman recently "New Yorkers change their apartments every time they disapprove of the color of

the janitor's hair.' Perhaps the Englishman was right Anyhow, lots of people are flat hunting

The streets are full of them. You can tell them blocks off, for they all wear wor-

All the people who have lived in Central Park West, its nearby streets or in Harlem and have risen by subway explosions instead of alarm clocks, are now looking for apartments in the neighborhood of Washington Square, while those who have breakfasted and supped where the arch rises and where the Fifth avenue stages still give an appearance of bucolic ease

the casual observer seemed able to eat three good meals a day. Then the rage for the rag and bone and hank of hair girl came in, the attenutated, picked robin sort, you know, and I was stranded. "Someway I could not get the hang of these feminine elongates and I was at my wit's end with an expensive studio on my hands for which I saw no prospect of getting the rent. The landlord was of

to this ever changing mass of flat hunters

There is something permanent and stable

about a lease that does not recommend

itself to the average flat hunter. To take

out anything for a year seems too binding.

In the mind of the Manhattanite is the ever recurrent thought: "Where will I

be in a year?" That is probably why mar-

"I always did hate taking out leases

says the bachelor, and the marriage lease is the hardest of all to break, Dakota

statistics to the contrary notwithstanding.

Let a man try to break the marriage lease

and he'll find that in comparison breaking

the average flat lease in New York is easy.

how can usually break the lease if he wants

tistic circles is as good as any. Said one

artist recently, speaking of his ability to

"I was hard up. I was doing the wrong kind of girls. Mine were the athletic

variety, with flesh on their bones and to

break leases

The flat hunter, however, who knows

There are different ways of doing

Perhaps that prevalent in the ar-

riage is so unpopular in Gotham.

as well whistle out of the window as tell him hard luck stories. "I told my tale to an artist friend who had been luckier than I in pleasing the popular taste. Said he to me:

the stony hearted variety. You might

" 'All you have to do is study mathematics, then add a few inches here and there to the feminine figure and you are all right. Add four inches to the arm, fourteen to



THE HISTORIAN.

the legs, keep on with the neck lines until you have used up all the paint on your brush and there you are.'

"But this has nothing to do with breaking leases, you think. When he found that I couldn't do the work in that way he offered to help me out in releasing myself from my obligations.

"A few nights after he came around with a crowd of congenial spirits. The spirits, of the male and female order, were provided with instruments of every description, the only requisite being that they make plenty of noise. We kept the party up, singing, dancing, playing until an early hour the next morning.

"Later in the day the landlord appeared. If I didn't keep quieter, so he said, the other tenants would leave.

"I remonstrated. I had leased the studio for the year and I considered it my privilege to entertain my friends.

"He didn't see it in that light. He couldn't afford to antagonize his other tenants he said

tenants, he said.
"I was cool and determined. If I wanted to have parties every night I should have them. The other tenants were not paying my rent.
"Finally in the heat of argument he or-

"Finally in the heat of argument he ordered me out. I rose in my dignity. I would go. I would not listen to another word. I began to pack while he was standing there. I informed him that there were plenty of other studios just as good.
"I took a hall bedroom, borrowed some space of a friend until I got on my feet again. Really, if you know how, aren't such an awful nuisance."

of flats to rent. One man relates his ex-perience as follows: perience as follows:

"She was stately, well dressed, with shoals of references as to her financial standing and objected strenuously to shilling."

Children stories are rife among the agents

children.
"I will not," said she, 'hire any apartment if there are children in the house.

"Having said this three times, I began to believe that she was so determined that I might as well capitulate. I am a father and have not the rooted aversion to children that the average flat hunter has, but I obediently crossed the application that I had from a mother with a family of two and told her that there were no children in the house and I would not rent an apartment to any one who had.

an apartment to any one who had.

"She made me promise over and over.
The other prospective tenants were
desirable, too, but I believed that a
bird in the hand is worth two in the
bush, and rented the place. She objected to paying in advance because she
asserted that after she got in and other
tenants brought children it would be her
loss, for she would get right out. Her
husband, I forgot to mention, was in everyhusband, I forgot to mention, was in every-

day evidence.
"A few days after she was installed in the new home I called to see if everything was all right. To my surprise I found that she had four children. I was speechless with surprise. When I recovered I demanded in explanation. "I thick four children in an apartment house are enough," she explained. "She seemed to think that the subject was

ended, and it practically was. I had got the worst of it, but I never said a word. I've rented too many apartments to women to argue any point if I can avoid it." "Speaking of the trouble that women with children have in getting into desirable flats," said a woman to whom the interviewer told the above story, "I was looking around for flats the other day, and was so tired that I stopped at a friend's house to

the wouldbe tenant.

"That isn't my business,' was the response. 'Parents are objectionable'—she stubbed her toe over the word, but recov-

for skylights.
"I believe that if they hired a cellar they



rent these apartments to women than men."
"How is that?" was asked in surprise,

proved the neighborhood. It had never occurred to their inexperience that certain blocks are to be avoided.
Yet, even with all the advantages of a perfectly appointed apartment and a locality which is convenient, the girl wife was conscious of something in the air which made her start and turn and look with newly aroused suspicion at the passersby, and even the one who ran could read that she was rapidly changing her mind in regard to the home they had so nearly selected.

"The hardest people I have to deal with," said another agent, who was loquacious on the subject of his wrongs and rights, "are the artists. They're always looking for skylights. eached my limit. I'm going to see the Seems to me I wouldn't,' says I, sooth-

'Seems to me I wouldn't, ways I, soothingly.

"'Wouldn't? Why not?' She was very peremptory. 'If the agent doesn't put that man out I'll leave.'

"'Seems to me I wouldn't, says I again.

"I will. Why not?'

"'Well,' I says, still soothingly. 'You



see, it's the agent himself; he lives right

"Just at that moment, if you'll believe

the country.
"I was so surprised myself I couldn't think for a minute and then I says, 'Oh, yes; it's the janitôr's family next door; they're

"We looked down through the court and, sure enough, there was a little crowd of mourners and a child's coffin outside and a roung minister reading the funeral service.

"Isn't it awful?' she murmured. "Think of being so near to people, so near to death and birth that you can touch it and yet not to know or care! New York is a terrible place, isn't it? I believe I'll try and persuade my husband to stay in the country.' "In the journey for flat-hunting experiences, the interviewer came across three widely different tyre."

ences, the interviewer came across three men of widely different type.

"How is it," was asked, "that a trio so dissimilar are flat mates?"

"When a man," said the spokesman, "is determined on matrimony and can't get what he wants he takes what's coming his way. It's the same with finding a flat mate. what he wants he with finding a flat mate. When you want a companion to share your troubles and expenses, you usually find

THE SEARCH FOR LIGHT BOOMS.

see, it's the agent himself; he lives right above you.'

"Another time, I was showing a lady from the country these flats. She had never lived in anything but a house and she was saving that she didn't see how it was possible to live so near other people—people you didn't know and didn't want to know.

"'Oh,' I says, soothingly—you see, it's my business to be soothing—'you'll not be troubled by 'em. After a day or two you won't know but you're the only people here.'

"Just at that moment, if you'll believe me, a voice came floating through the window and the words were as distinct as those I'm telling you. They were 'I am the resurrection and the life,' and after a moment something about 'eternal life.'

"'What's that?' said the woman from the country."

young minister reading the funeral service. The woman began to cry.
"'Isn't it awful?' she murmured. "Think

in the world.

"Now he could make a good profit by selling the bottle for one-third its present price. But why should he take less money when all those who want his ink bottle must come to him and pay his price or do without it? He has a monopoly of that invention, and nobody can infringe on it.

"The theatrical manager with a successful force that persons want to see is in exactly

"The theatrical manager with a successful farce that persons want to see is in exactly the same position. He has a monopoly on something that the public wants, and has the right to charge what he can get for it. Nobody else can supply the demand for this play."

It is on this principle that managers raise their prices and keep them up, even though profits might in the long run be larger with lower rates. They know that the public will pay the price asked to see what it wants.

The question of ticket speculation which has recently been revived always interests the public. People are continually asking why they should always have to pay for seats more than the regular box office price if they want to get anywhere near the stage. The answer, of course, is that the best seats are given to the speculators, although large signs displayed at the theatres proclam that tickets purchased trom speculators are worthless.

"You must remen ber," one of the managers said to a Sun reporter, "that there are that all the congenial people, all the soulful affinities, have liens on them, so you settle down with some one with whom you have not one idea in common, except, perhaps, to elude paying your rent as long as possible.





THE SIDEBOARD SYMPATHY.

visitor in a bachelor maid's apartment recently, looking at the narrow hall which ran its full length and terminated in a bowllike space called the "salon"—the owners were very artistic—"tell me, how do you clean this place? Do you run a straw through it?"

Walking through Sculpate D

Walking through Soubrette Row the interviewer witnessed a strange sight. They were a young couple with all the external marks of country life. They had been looking at flats and apparently ap-

says, says she:

To ten you,' and she sat down and poured out her tale of wee. Every night I'm waked up by some man falling a rainst my door. I hear him come stumbting up the stairs. Then n.y heart almost stops beating for a minute or two. Then comes that awful thump, and then he picks himself up and goes up another flight. That has happened three times lately. I've the same all fond of the contents of a side-board. When we decided to live together, we immediately went and bought a side-board big enough for three. I give you my word there isn't a bottle or glass made that won't find place there.

"After we had bought the sideboard we tried to find a flat to fit it. Perhaps you think that is easy. You just try it, if you do." my door. I hear him come stumbling up the stairs. Then my heart almost stops beating for a minute or two. Then comes that awful thump, and then he picks him-self up and goes up another flight. That has happened three times lately. I've

girl and her mother here last year. One day the voring woman comes to me and says, says she:

"We," he continued, "are more fortunate than most. We have one bond of sympathy. We are all fond of the contents of a side-

visited the Jail, having heard that a prisoner had been taken. An old woman, who proved to be the "jailoress," greeted the visitors. "Where's the prisoner?" asked one of the party "I jest sent him down to the viliage on an errand," was the reply. "I shouldn't think that would be wise," ventured the summer boarder. "He might not come back." "Young man," exclaimed the jailoress, somewhat testily, "I'd have you understand that we only have respectable prisoners here!"

why should the freezing point be marked on the Fahrenheit thermometer scale? Most students know that its inventor divided the space between these points into 180 degrees instead of the simpler 100 degrees used in the centigrade system, but lew understand how this number came to be chosen. A writer thus explains the matter:

The thermometer was really invented by Sir Isaac Newton. He started his scale with the heat of the human body and used as his instrument a glass tube filled with linseed oil. The lowest figure on the scale was the freezing point and the highest point boiling water. The starting point of this scale, as mentioned, was the heat of the human body, which he salled by the round number 12, as the duodecimal system was then in common use. He divided the space between the freezing point and the temperature of the body into 12 points, and stated that the boiling point of water would be about 30, as the temperature must be nearly three times that of the human body.

When Fahrenheit took up the subject a few years later he used the Newton instrument but, finding the scale not fine enough, divided each degree into two parts, and so made the measure between the freezing and boiling points 24 parts instead of 12. Fahrenheit then discovered he could obtain a lower degree of cold than freezing, and, taking a mixture of ice and salt for a starting point, he counted 24 points up to body heat. By this measurement he obtained 8 for the freezing point and 53 for the boiling point. His scale now read! Zero: freezing, 8, body heat, 24, and boiling water, 53. It will be noticed that this scale is identically that of Newton's, only starting lower and having the numbers doubled.

It was with this scale which Fahrenheit worked for a long time, but finally finding the temperature divisions still too large, he divided each degree into four parts. Multiplying the numbers just given by four, the thermometer scale now in use results.

The chance choice of Newton of the figure 12 to rpresent the body heat determined by the w

Heritages of Civilization.

W VIII

"

From the Washington Evening Star The Indians have discovered the beauties of the Dakota divorce laws and are taking advantage of them," said Gen. Andrew A. Burt to a newspaper man at Fort Myer re-

eently.
"At the present rate of increase the Indian divorce mill of South Dakota in five years will become more expensive than the ready made divorce factories for Easterners. While Indian divorce was an unheard of thing half a decade ago, sixteen petitions for legal the last year by full blooded Sioux bucks and squaws. Divorces have come to the reservations and cut off from their native separation have been filed at Oacoma during

LOOKING FOR A SKYLIGHT.

rici according to the white man's law.
"Now they have almost succeeded. But
the same law has taught them the interesting fact that they can change wives or hus-bands. They fail to understand that the divorce law is anything but a means to obtain the luxury of an unlimited number of marthe luxury of an unlimited number of mar-riages. Many bucks and squaws who know not a word of English and bear no mark of civilization except that of clothes come to the attorneys' offices and ask for di-vorces when they have no reason but a desire to form a new marriage. They point to other Indians who have had many wives and ask why they cannot when the law pro-vides the way.

"When the Indian tribes were placed on

INDIANS AS DIVORCE FIENDS. Indians as one of the heritages of civilization. The Indian officials have been trying for twenty years to induce the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be mary twenty years to induce the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be mary twenty years to induce the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be with the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be with the Indian to be with the Indian to be mary to be with the Indian to be with the Indian

wild life their respect for their own social laws dwindled. It was not long before many were living in after disregard of the family obligations. Bucks deserted squaws and squaws took on new husbands without any reason except their whims. Bigamy was erased from the tribal offences, it was to remedy this evil that the Government officials and the church missionaries demanded that the Indians be marriage alording to the South Dakota law Now that they have found put about the divorces they have returned to their old free mixers of they have found put about the divorces they have returned to their old free mixers of they have found put about the distribution and civilized methods and tribal ceremination. The findian marriage of to-day is a curious mixture of civinged methods and tribal cereminates. Inwhiting to give up their traditional customs, the indians are now using both tribal and civilized laws. The young bucks hop about from maiden to young bucks chooses his squaw in the manner of the peace or a missionary clergyman.

"The dance at which squaws are publicly and the squaws are some called. They are usually wearings are called. They are usually the couple and carried in the couple set off for the nearest town or church. Justices of the pouch the "But even the hot blooded Sioux has been tamed to submission to the civilized marriage law. When the sacred dance is concluded the couple set off for the nearest town or church. Justices of the peace in Oncoma have been visited by as many as thirty couples at the same time, all demanding immediate marriage. The Episcopailan missions are proving most popular, however. The Indians are mystified and charmed by the elaborate ceremony of the Episcopai marriage, so they now look up these churches to finish the elaborate tribul custom of choosing wives and husbands. They want to be married by high church form. They think this more in keeping with their own ceremony than the few informal words in a dingy justice's office."

"As many of the Indian marriage must be